

U. S. SYNDICATE'S \$200,000,000 MAY FINANCE HAPSBURG RETURN TO THRONE OF HUNGARY

ARCHDUKE IN PLOT TO PUT SON IN POWER

American Millionaires Who Made Deal for Austrian's Huge Estate Give Impetus to Cabal That Would Marry Dissolute Youth to Scheming Admiral's Daughter and Crown Him as Successor to Unhappy Charles—"Ku Klux" of Hungary Lend Support to Schemes of Friedrich for Future of His Offspring.

By EUGENE S. BAGGER.

Who Has Just Returned After Years as a Correspondent in Central and Southern Europe and Is an Authority on Political Conditions There.

Ex-Emperor Charles and his unlucky queen, Zita, have been placed upon a British warship, bound for life exile in the Madeira Islands, since this story was written. Charles has made his last coup for the throne of Hungary and failed miserably. The allies will see to it that at least one pair of Hapsburgs will not wear the royal purple again.

Charles had been living in Switzerland with his family up to two weeks ago, when he was persuaded by his wife to make another attempt for the Hungarian throne. He was defeated.

WILL American dollars innocently help to finance the restoration of the Hapsburgs to the throne of Hungary?

When it was announced recently that a syndicate of American business men had paid \$200,000,000 for the estate of Archduke Friedrich of Austria, for the development of their natural resources, the deal was hailed as only another stupendous enterprise for which American capitalists are famous. And the members of the syndicate have no other motive than to find an attractive investment for their millions, even though across the sea and in a part of Europe still in the throes of war-like dissensions.

But those conversant with the real conditions surrounding Hungary as justly apprehensive of the use to which the crafty Archduke will put this dazzling fortune, so unexpectedly come to his hands.

DEAL WAS ENGINEERED IN GENEVA.

The deal was engineered by the General Real Estate and Trust Company, formed in Geneva, Switzerland, by the American Syndicate: J. Leonard Replogle, H. S. Endsley, Charles S. Sabin, Frank A. Munsey, Thomas Felder, W. A. Honnald, Louis Chevrillon, Dr. Hugh Young, and Samuel Untermeyer.

Replogle has announced that this American group has obtained one-third interest in the estate, while the Archduke Friedrich has kept two-thirds.

As part of the property was confiscated by the newly liberated Balkan states, the syndicate intends to fight the case out in the courts. It has employed Rene Viviana, the former French premier, as chief counsel, who will take the matter, if necessary, to the League of Nations.

There is a report that the Archduke Albrecht, Friedrich's son, will come to New York soon in connection with the scheme.

THE "KU KLUX" OF AUSTRIA.

It is no exaggeration to say that this vast purchase price will be used by Archduke Friedrich in a plan to place the Archduke Albrecht, his son on the Hungarian throne. Some active wire pulling in that direction had been done for some time by his mother, Archduchess Isabella, to whom, by the way, a good deal of the property belongs. She was a Princess Croy-Dulmen and one of the richest heiresses in Europe. But the movement to crown Albrecht king of Hungary receives its real start with the arrival of the American dollars.

Until about two weeks ago there were two contestants for the Hungarian throne, Charles, the ex-king, exiled to Switzerland, was the candidate for the Legitimists who maintained that his abdication in 1918 was not valid, as under the Hungarian constitution, "once a king, always a king." The other party was called "free electionist,"

ARCHDUKE FRIEDRICH (below), who is using proceeds of the sale of his estate to Americans for \$200,000,000 to finance plot to make his son, Archduke Albrecht, King of Hungary.

FORMER EMPEROR CHARLES AND EMPRESS ZITA, banished to Hedeira.

ARCHDUCHESS ISABELLA (lower right), wife of Archduke Friedrich, is engineering a marital alliance between her son Albrecht and Hartley's daughter, to get Regents' support for throne.

ROYALTY WHO RACED FOR THRONE



possibly because its candidate, Regent Horthy, did not consider himself free to announce that he aspired for the election. He came into power in 1919 as Charles' lieutenant and his ambition involved a betrayal of his master.

Charles' support came from the High Tories, the great aristocratic families. They were legitimists because they consider their privilege safer under a lawful king than under a usurper. Horthy was supported by most of the army and by the body called Awakening Hungarians.

These Awakening Hungarians are the Ku Klux Klan of Hungary, only their power is a thousands times greater. The American Ku Kluxers have mistreated a few dozen victims. Their Hungarian brethren have murdered or tortured to death several thousands, mostly Jews, because they regard that the easiest way of settling economic and intellectual competition.

As far as the Magyar people are concerned the choice was between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Both parties are a set of militarist junkers who want to oppress and exploit the people. Both are bent on making war on Hungary's democratic neighbors. But the Karlists are mostly wise old junkers who operate on the principle of "small profit, large turnover." They are willing to squeeze a little less out of the common people if they can squeeze longer.

SCOTCH WHISKEY HIS PASSION.

The Horthyists, on the other hand, are mostly crazy young junkers who want to squeeze as much as they can while squeezing is good, and don't care about the morrow. Karlismagnates see that Horthy's white terror cannot but result in another Red upheaval. So they wanted to get rid of Horthy and bring back the dull and amiable Charles, whose chief passion in life is for Scotch and soda.

Last Easter, Charles, who lived amid the full pomp of an imperial court in a Swiss castle, got a Spanish passport issued to a "Senor Juarez" and slipped into Hungary. Part of the army, under the Legitimist General Lehar, it will be recalled, joined him on the frontier. But Charles, being fond of theatrical postures, preferred to go to Budapest alone. Here Horthy told him that he had to get out, as the Entente demanded his immediate withdrawal. That was an easy enough way for Horthy to get rid of his rival.

Charles quit Budapest post haste on Easter Sunday. The same evening a bunch of aristocrats, imbibing their champagne in the most exclusive club of Budapest, decided it was a shame that a perfectly good king should be ousted like that by the upstart Horthy. Two of the party, Messrs. Beniczky and Szmezsanyi, got into an automobile and hurried after Charles. They wanted to persuade him to arouse the Legitimist units of the army, to march on Budapest and to create "an accomplished fact."

ALBRECHT'S SINISTER DUPLICITY.

Now, one of the champagne party was a very green and conceited young man of twenty-four—the Archduke Albrecht, who had plans of his own concerning the throne. He immediately sent his aide, Major Kozma, to the Regent with a report of what had happened. The Regent issued his orders; next morning the two Legitimist emissaries were arrested on their way and sent back to Budapest. Charles' game was up.

All these details came out in the course of a parliamentary hearing, for Messrs. Beniczky and Szmezsanyi, as deputies, complained that their privilege was violated by the arrest. (In Hungary legislators cannot be arrested unless surrendered by Parliament.)

The committee in charge of the hearing issued a summons for the Archduke Albrecht. The green young man, however, had disappeared. He soon turned up at Madrid, where he discussed things with King Alfonso. Thence he

proceeded to Paris and endeared himself to Royalist generals and duchesses.

It was at this juncture that the propaganda in favor of Albrecht's candidacy launched on a big scale in Hungary. Its sponsors were Count Emery Karolyi, cousin and mortal enemy of Michael Karolyi, former President of the Hungarian Republic; Baron Perenyi, Captain Kozma, and Mr. Eckhardt, an all-powerful official of the foreign ministry.

After Charles' forced return to Switzerland all members of the House of Hapsburg recognized his title to the Hungarian throne—all except the Archduchess Isabella, and her son Albrecht.

The latter returned to Budapest about the middle of June and appeared before the parliamentary committee that investigated the Easter coup. He was asked by a member, Marquis Pallavicini, whether he considered Charles the lawful king.

"I regard Charles as the lawful head of the House of Hapsburg," was Albrecht's evasive answer. It created a sensation.

Early in July the Archduchess Isabella returned from Switzerland to her estate in West Hungary. The support of Lieutenant-Colonel Pronay and Lieutenant Hejjas was secured. These two are the most dreaded terrorist leaders. Pronay once swore he would not rest until he had killed one thousand Jews with his own hands; and he has made good on his word to a substantial extent. Hejjas had been the investigator of the terrible massacres at Orgovany and Abony.

U. S. DOLLARS BACK TERRORISTS.

A convention of the Awakening Hungarians was held. Pronay and Hejjas recommended Albrecht for King, and declared that whoever was against him was a Jew and a Communist. They carried the day; the Awakening Hungarians endorsed Albrecht; and the whole machine of this Hungarian Ku Klux Klan was at his disposal.

Now the men who sponsor this propaganda all belong to the following of Regent Horthy, and they have brought with them the rest of the crowd. Possibly they realize that Horthy has not a half chance to win the crown for himself. Horthy has no money; two years of official plunder have left the state treasury completely exhausted.

Behind Albrecht stand the American millions paid to his parents; and the American millions have turned the trick. A bargain has been struck; Albrecht is to marry Horthy's daughter Paula, and receive the full support of the Regent and his clique. Next to being King, being the King's father-in-law would be a job to satisfy Horthy's ambition.

JEWS SUFFER FROM RIVALRY.

Those atrocities had been formerly assiduously denied by all reactionaries and militarists; to speak of them was "Communist propaganda." Now aristocratic leaders attacked Horthy for conniving at the murder of hundreds of Jews and Socialists. The Horthy-Albrecht group retorted by calling the Legitimists Jewish mercenaries and by inciting to further measures against the Jews.

The rivalry between Legitimists and Albrechtists came to a head in connection with the evacuation of the Burgenland. That district of West Hungary was to be transferred, under the Treaty of Trianon to Austria. The Legitimists had denounced Horthy's government for "betraying" Hungary by the cession. If they now saved the Burgenland they would become the heroes of the nation, and the Horthy-Albrecht group would be beaten.

But the latter were not asleep, either. So on August 29, when the Austrians were to take possession of the Burgenland, both the Legitimists and the Horthyists had their troops and their marauder bands on the spot. The Austrians were treacherously attacked and repulsed with casualties, and a reign of terror began. Legitimists and Horthyists emulated one another in ambushing Austrian gendarmes, murdering peaceful German farmers and raiding Austrian villages across the border.

For a time the relative strength of the two factions was doubtful; but when General Lehar, with his division of 30,000, marched up on the Austrian frontier, the preponderance of the Legitimists was assured. It was reported on September 30 that the Legitimists set up an independent Burgenland republic under the lead of the former Premier Friedrich (not to be confused with the Archduke Friedrich, Albrecht's father). On the other hand, the Horthy-Albrecht group seems to be in power at Budapest.